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RIVERSIDE POLICE TO COMBAT ROADWAY DEATHS AND INJURIES WITH DUI CHECKPOINTS

Riverside Police Department has been awarded a new traffic safety grant for an anti-DUI program aimed at preventing deaths and injuries on our roadways. Additional enforcement measures to combat impaired driving are coming to Riverside as a result of a recent \$74,500 grant awarded by the California Office of Traffic Safety. The Riverside Police Department is dedicated to keeping our streets safe through both enforcement and education.

This special DUI checkpoint grant will assist efforts to reduce the number of persons killed and injured in alcohol and other drug related collisions in our community. The grant activities will specifically target impaired driving offenders as well as educating the public on the dangers of impaired driving through the use of DUI/driver's license checkpoints. When possible, specially trained officers will be available to evaluate those suspected of drug-impaired driving.

Drunk and drugged driving is among America's deadliest crimes. In 2010, 791 people were killed and over 24,000 injured in alcohol and drug-impaired crashes in California. In 2011, the city of Riverside experienced 4 deaths and 72 people injured in these tragic crashes. Crashes involving alcohol drop by an average of 20 percent when well-publicized checkpoints are conducted often enough. Checkpoints have proven to be the most effective of any of the DUI enforcement strategies, yielding considerable cost savings of \$6 for every \$1 spent.

"DUI checkpoints have been an essential part of the phenomenal reduction in DUI deaths that we witnessed from 2006 to 2010 in California," said Christopher J. Murphy, Director of the Office of Traffic Safety. "But since the tragedy of DUI accounts for nearly one third of traffic fatalities, the city of Riverside needs the high visibility enforcement and public awareness that this grant will provide."

Funding for this program is from the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

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